

## Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 NEA-10 SS-15 NSC-10 L-03 IO-13 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 RSR-01 /089 W

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R 201555Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5353

C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 4207

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PL,US

SUBJECT: US-POLISH BILATERAL RELATIONS (IV):

JEWISH CEMETERIES IN POLAND

REFS: (A) WARSAW 3854; (B) STATE 154820

1. AT THE END OF OUR AUGUST 20 REVIEW OF US-POLISH RELATIONS, I TOLD SPASOWSKI THAT, AS HE WAS ALREADY AWARE, I HAD BEEN VERY ENCOURAGED BY THE BEGINNINGS OF A NEW PROCESS OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN POLISH ORGANIZATIONS AND THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMUNITY, EXEMPLIFIED BY THE VISITS TO POLAND OF MESSRS. BLUMBERG AND EDELSBERG OF B'NAI B'RITH AND OF PROFESSOR LEWIN OF AGUDAS ISRAEL WORLD FEDERATION. I SAID THAT IT WAS IN THIS CONTEXT THAT I WISHED TO MENTION PROFESSOR LEWIN'S DEEP CONCERN AT WHAT HE HAD LEARNED ABOUT THE IMMINENCE OF CONSTRUCTION OF A ROAD THROUGH THE WARSAW JEWISH CEMETERY (REF A). I SAID I UNDERSTOOD THE POLISH GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION IN INVITING THE B'NAI B'RITH OFFICIALS AND PROFESSOR LEWIN WAS THAT OF ESTABLISHING A CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE WITH AMERICAN JEWS, BUT THAT PROFESSOR LEWIN FEARED THE RELOCATION OF GRAVES, WITHOUT PROPER RABBINICAL CONSENT, WOULD CAUSE AN UPROAR AMONG AMERICAN JEWRY WHICH WOULD PROBABLY DESTROY THE POSSIBILITY OF CONTINUING SUCH A DIALOGUE. IT WAS FOR THIS REASON THAT I FELT I SHOULD INFORMALLY

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DRAW THIS MATTER TO THE VICE MINISTER'S ATTENTION.

2. SPASOWSKI ASKED SOME QUESTIONS OF DETAIL ABOUT  
PROFESSOR LEWIN'S VISIT, IN ANSWER TO WHICH I GAVE  
HIM MOST OF THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN REF A.  
SPASOWSKI THEN SAID THAT HE HAD NOT UNDERSTOOD THE CON-  
STRUCTION OF THE ROAD WAS SO IMMINENT. HE AGREED THAT  
THE EFFECT OF THE RELOCATION OF GRAVED MIGHT DEFEAT THE  
EFFORTS OF THE POLISH GOVERNMENT TO CONTINUE ITS  
DIALLGUE WITH THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMUNITY AND SAID  
THAT HE WOULD IMMEDIATELY LOOK INTO THE MATTER.  
DAVIES

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